

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SERIAL NO.: 10/531,058

ART UNIT: 4177

FILED: January 17, 2006

EXAMINER: Stuart, C. W.

TITLE: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR TEMPERING AND HUMIDIFYING GAS,  
ESPECIALLY RESPIRATORY AIR

Amendment B: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1- 10 (canceled by an earlier amendment).

Claims 11- 20 (canceled herein).

21. (new) A system for heating and humidifying a gas for delivery to a patient, the system comprising:

a fluid reservoir having a fluid therein;

a humidification chamber in fluid communication with said fluid reservoir, said humidification chamber having a gas inlet and a gas outlet, said gas inlet being at a lower portion of said humidification chamber, said gas outlet positioned at a level above said gas inlet, said humidification chamber having a filling material therein positioned between said gas inlet and said gas outlet;

a pumping means connected to said fluid reservoir and to said humidification chamber, said pumping means for passing the fluid from said fluid reservoir into an upper portion of said humidification chamber such that the fluid flows downwardly therefrom and into said filling material;

a gas supplying means connected to said gas inlet of said humidification chamber,

said gas supplying means for passing a gas through said gas inlet and into said humidification chamber such that the gas flows upwardly through said filling material so as to saturate the gas with fluid and without aerosol formation and such that the gas flows outwardly of said humidification chamber through said gas outlet and to the patient; and

a heating means cooperative with the fluid in said fluid reservoir, said heating means for elevating a temperature of the fluid in said fluid reservoir to a desired level.

22. (new) The system of Claim 21, said humidification chamber having a sprinkler suitable for delivering the fluid into said filling material in said humidification chamber.

23. (new) The system of Claim 22, said humidification chamber having a surface adjacent said upper portion thereof so as to receive the fluid thereon from said sprinkler.

24. (new) The system of Claim 21, said humidification chamber and said fluid reservoir being connected by a fluid circuit, said pumping means connected to said fluid circuit.